

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Testimony Regarding

House Bill 6471
AN ACT MAKING CHANGES TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee: my name is Karen J. Senich and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, which is the state's film office. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of house bill 6471 - An Act Making Changes to the Liquor Control Act.

In 2006, the State adopted a tax credit program for film production, the intent of which was to encourage and grow the production industry in the state, thus generating economic return and creating jobs. Since 2006, the State has issued tax credit vouchers to 43 productions. Included in that total are 28 feature films, 1 mini-series and 1 movie of the week which include scenes filmed in establishments which hold tavern or café permits. Among the locations sought for filming, these cafes, bars and taverns are almost always on the list. Although there are a few times the production can shoot the scene while a café, tavern or bar is open, most require the use of the facility while closed.

The Commission has been fortunate to have been able to work with the Department of Consumer Protection to assist these productions to create solutions to allow for the scenes to be filmed in Connecticut. These venues are generally compensated for the use of the bar, tavern or café. The Department of Consumer Protection's proposal to allow for these premises to be occupied solely for the purposes of filming is the right step for Connecticut to grow and sustain this industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.